



## On the Forefront of Eco-Education

Off the coast of Zanzibar, visionary Sibylle Riedmiller made it her life's mission, for the past 30 years, to turn the pristine island into a marine protected area, complete with educational programs and eco-bungalows.

### CHUMBE ISLAND

Size does not matter, and Chumbe Island proves that. This small tropical island located four miles west of the larger island of Zanzibar is home to a small cluster of exclusive eco-bungalows set in the most pristine environment: a nature reserve, a unique coral reef sanctuary, and a coral rag forest. The visionary mind behind this project is German national Sibylle Riedmiller. A former overseas development worker, Riedmiller came to Zanzibar

### ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

in 1991 for a consultancy job in education planning. During her time there, she “discovered” the uninhabited Chumbe Island, and identified it as the most suitable area to establish a marine protected area (MPA). The eastern side of the island is host to 200 species of hard coral and 450 species of reef fish—a level of biodiversity rarely found along the over-exploited coastline of Tanzania. “The fringing coral reefs were incredibly diverse and